

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Please amend claims 3, 6 and 7 as follows.

Please add new claims as follows.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (original) A method of training a quality assessment tool comprising the steps of  
dividing a database comprising a plurality of samples, each with an associated mean  
opinion score into a plurality of distortion sets of samples according to a distortion criterion;  
and  
training a distortion specific assessment handler for each distortion set, such that a fit  
between a distortion specific quality measure generated from  
a distortion specific plurality of parameters for a sample and  
the mean opinion score associated with said sample  
is optimised.
2. (original) A method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of  
training the quality assessment tool, such that a fit between a quality measure  
generated from  
a non-distortion specific plurality of parameters together with a distortion specific  
quality measure for a sample, and  
the mean opinion score associated with said sample, is optimised.
3. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ in which the samples  
represent speech transmitted over a telecommunications network, and in which the quality  
measure is representative of the quality of the speech perceived by an average user.
4. (original) A method of assessing speech quality in a telecommunications network  
comprising the steps of  
determining a dominant distortion type for a sample;

combining a plurality of parameters specific to said dominant distortion type to provide a distortion specific quality measure for each sample; and

generating a quality measure in dependence upon the distortion specific quality measure.

5. (original) A method according to claim 4 in which the generating step comprises the sub step of

combining a non-distortion specific plurality of parameters with said distortion specific quality measure to provide said quality measure.

6. (currently amended) A method according to claim 4 ~~or claim 5~~ in which the samples represent speech transmitted over a telecommunications network, and in which the quality measure is representative of the quality of the speech perceived by an average user.

7. (currently amended) A computer readable medium carrying a computer program for implementing the method according to claim ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~.

8. (currently amended) A computer program for implementing the method according to claim ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~.

9. (original) An apparatus for assessing speech quality in a telecommunications network comprising

means for determining a dominant distortion type for a sample;

means for combining a distortion specific plurality of parameters to provide a distortion specific quality measure for each sample; and

means for generating a quality measure in dependence upon the distortion specific quality measure.

10. (original) An apparatus according to claim 9, in which  
the generating means comprises means for combining a non-distortion specific plurality of parameters with said distortion specific quality measure to provide said quality measure.
11. (original) An apparatus for training a quality assessment tool comprising  
means for dividing a database comprising a plurality of samples, each with an associated mean opinion score into a plurality of distortion sets of samples according to a distortion criterion; and  
means for training a distortion specific assessment handler for each distortion set, such that a fit between a distortion specific quality measure generated from  
a distortion specific plurality of parameters for a sample and  
the mean opinion score associated with said sample  
is optimised.
12. (original) An apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising  
means for training the quality assessment tool, such that a fit between a quality measure generated from  
a non-distortion specific plurality of parameters together with a distortion specific quality measure for a sample, and  
the mean opinion score associated with said sample,  
is optimised.
13. (new) A method according to claim 2 in which the samples represent speech transmitted over a telecommunications network, and in which the quality measure is representative of the quality of the speech perceived by an average user.
14. (new) A method according to claim 5 in which the samples represent speech transmitted over a telecommunications network, and in which the quality measure is representative of the quality of the speech perceived by an average user.

15. (new) A computer readable medium carrying a computer program for implementing the method according to claim 2.
16. (new) A computer readable medium carrying a computer program for implementing the method according to claim 3.
17. (new) A computer readable medium carrying a computer program for implementing the method according to claim 4.
18. (new) A computer program for implementing the method according to claim 2.
19. (new) A computer program for implementing the method according to claim 3.
20. (new) A computer program for implementing the method according to claim 4.